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MODULE 2 –
DEVELOPMENT AND
FEATURES OF THE ACT
PLUS WRITING TEST

TEACHER RESOURCES TO PREPARE /
UNDERSTAND . . . ACT PLUS WRITING TEST



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Learn about the development of the ACT Plus Writing Test

Explore the features of the ACT Plus Writing Test


Consider what Tips for Students taking the ACT Plus Writing Test

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THE WRITING TEST

30 minute essay test with a single prompt question

- ✓ Making judgments
- ✓ Developing a position
- ✓ Maintain focus
- ✓ Organizing ideas
- ✓ Communicate clearly




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DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACT WRITING TEST

In developing the Writing Test, ACT examined secondary and postsecondary writing practice, instruction and assessment across the nation. ACT reviewed:

- Direct writing assessments
- State writing content standards
- Literature on writing and teaching
- Results of the 2002-03 ACT National Curriculum Survey



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LIST TO DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS

Type
Format
Scoring Criteria to be used in the rubric
Field testing

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Only prompts that perform acceptably in field-testing become eligible for use in test administrations.



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PROMPT FORMAT

The Writing Test consists of one writing prompt that briefly states an issue and describes two points of view on that issue.

- Prompts are designed to be appropriate for responses in a 30-minute timed test and to reflect students' interests and experiences

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PROMPT FORMAT

Educators debate extending high school to five years because of increasing demands on students from employers and colleges to participate in extracurricular activities and community service in addition to having high grades. Some educators support extending high school to five years because they think students need more time to achieve all that is expected of them. Other educators do not support extending high school to five years because they think students would lose interest in school and attendance would drop in the fifth year. In your opinion should high school be extended to five years?

In your essay, take a position on his question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

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THE SIX-POINT HOLISTIC RUBRIC DEVELOPED AROUND FIVE SCORING CRITERIA

- ✓ Make judgments
- ✓ *Develop a position*
- ✓ Maintain focus
- ✓ Organize ideas
- ✓ Communicate clearly

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SCORING THE WRITING TEST

- Scored holistically.
- Scored by two trained readers, each of whom give it a rating from 1 (low) to 6 (high).
- The sum of those ratings is a student's Writing Test subscore (2-12)

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SCORE REPORTING FOR OUR MONTANA JUNIORS

- **Two scores will be reported**
 - A combined English/Writing score on a scale of 1-36
 - The English Test contributes 2/3 and the Writing Test contributes 1/3 toward the Combined English/Writing score
 - A Writing Test subscore on a scale of 2-12
- **In addition to reporting numerical scores**
 - Comments about the essay (between 1-4)

www.act.org/aap/writing/sample/comments.html

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TIPS FOR TAKING THE ACT WRITING TEST


- ☐Pace yourself
- ☐Prewrite
- ☐Write
- ☐Review your essay
- ☐Practice

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TO CONTINUE YOUR LEARNING
Format own prompts in your classroom

Share the 5 criteria with students

Practice writing using the Tips



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COMING SOON - MODULE 3
Examine the scoring rubric used in
scoring the ACT Writing Test

Practice scoring anchor papers and
understand the scoring key

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THANKS FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST TODAY

“he future is not some place we
are going to, but a place we are
creating. he paths to it are not
found, they are made.”
